



## MEETING MINUTES [DRAFT]

Wednesday, **October 19, 2022** | 10:00 AM  
Via WebEx

**Present:** Vice Chair Diana Almanza  
Committee Secretary Cris Plunkett  
Committee Member Traci Watson  
Committee Member Britt Creech (10:50)  
Committee Member Joaquin Remora (10:40)  
Committee Member Melanie Muasau

Committee Member Lisa Rachowicz  
Committee Member Kaleese Street

**Excused:**

Committee Member Tomiko Eya  
Committee Member Steven Clark  
Committee Member Belinda Dobbs

All SMC meetings are public. Homeless and formerly homeless San Franciscans are encouraged to attend.  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE TAKEN AFTER DISCUSSIONS & BEFORE VOTES/ACTIONS**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS** *3 min*  
*Meeting began at 10:07 AM. Quorum after 10:49. Vice Chair Almanza chaired the meeting.*

**MINUTES**

*DISCUSSION/ ACTION*

**SEPTEMBER 2022 MINUTES**

**MEMBERS & STAFF** *3 min*

The Committee voted to approve last month's minutes.

**No public comment**

**M/S/C:** Plunkett/Watson/Unanimous – **Minutes approved**

- II. **OLD BUSINESS/REPORTS** *DISCUSSION/ ACTION*

- A. **TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS** *ACTION*

**ACTING CHAIR ALMANZA** *3 min*

The Committee has been advised by the City Attorney's office to formally approve holding its meetings via teleconference. (The Committee is still awaiting permission from the mayor's office to return to in-person meetings.)

**Proposed Action:** *Approve resolution*

**M/S/C:** Watson/Street/passed by a majority - **the resolution was approved.**

- B. **UPDATE ON COMMITTEE OFFICERS** *DISCUSSION*

**Members** *5 min*

Members were asked to nominate colleagues for officer positions. Secretary Plunkett was nominated for Vice Chair. Vice Chair Almanza was nominated for Chair. Staff will ask Members for more nominations. Candidate statements and possibly elections will be heard next month.

**Public Comment:** None.

### III. NEW BUSINESS/REPORTS

#### A. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE – CHAIR’S SUMMARY

#### DISCUSSION

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR PLUNKETT 3 min

During last week’s subcommittee meeting, Members discussed new language relating to the frequency of visits for shelters with few complaints, discussed issues related to animals at shelters, the reinflation of shelters, Members’ beginning to do inspections.

**Public Comment:** None.

#### B. FREQUENCY OF SHELTER INSPECTIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS 15 min

Members approved language proposed by the Policy subcommittee to adjust the frequency of visits for shelters with no or few complaints.

*Explanatory documents – §20.304 (Frequency of Inspections), [Proposed Language](#)*

**Public Comment:** Salvador Barr supports doing more inspections of locations with more activity.

**Proposed Action:** *Ask the BOS to approve revision to the Admin Code per the Subcommittee’s proposal to allow the SMC to inspect shelters that are rarely out of compliance less than the current minimum of six times per year.*

**M/S/C:** Street/Plunkett/Unanimous – **The proposed language was approved.**

#### C. DEPT OF HOMELESSNESS AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

MEMBER RACHOWICZ 20 min

HSH reports that 711 Post is a recently opened site. It will have a capacity of 250 guests. They are adding approximately 30 per week. AWP is now full. MSC-South has almost completed their pest abatement. The Baldwin will open in November and take guests from Site 10, which is closing soon. Bayshore is waiting for some beds to be delivered. Civic Center is closing this week. Providence has paused intakes while renegotiating the location’s lease. Contract negotiations are still in progress to reopen Hospitality House (overnight and weekends only).

Member Rachowicz also presented a report on shelters’ ability to add bicycle storage. The goal is laudable but would be challenging for many sites, each of which has a unique setup. There is room at the Navigation Centers; however, most other sites would incur expenses and/or have to sacrifice sleeping space.

**Member Comment:** Acting Chair Almanza clarified that this was an informational presentation; for now no action is contemplated. Member Watson likes the idea that client needs for secure storage could be better met. Secretary Plunkett suggested there may be free options. There may be other solutions, e.g., the city has bike lockers.

**Public Comment:** Dr. Rohrer said it is a great goal, but not at the cost of beds. Salvador Barr said we should not “put metal over people.”

#### D. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

#### DISCUSSION

DPH STAFF 10 min

Staff went over the Standard of Care report. A large semi-congregate site has opened: 711 Post. Staff will tour the site and draft inspections forms. Guests are going to be able to submit complaints starting in November, and inspections will start as early as January.

**Public comment:** None

E. MENTAL HEALTH

*DISCUSSION*

Member Muasau *15 min*

Members were given a PowerPoint presentation to stimulate conversation about mental health in shelters. There is concern in the community that needs are not being met. More on-site care would make a major difference in the lives of clients.

**Member comment:** Diana asked if behavioral health services are not available through DPH. Member Muasau believes on-site care is optimal. AA and NA and spiritual counseling made a great difference in her life. Getting volunteer providers involved could be an option. Member Rachowicz suggested that BHS may be understaffed; however, there are contracts with outside providers, e.g., Glide. Shelters have discretion to set up AA meetings and bring in spiritual counselors, etc. Member Street is a case manager in the Tenderloin. She likes the idea of having mental health professionals—ideally ones able to diagnose and prescribe—readily available for shelter clients. Member Creech said that directing clients to the help they need depends greatly on case managers. Activities coordinators play a key role, too. Mental illness is devastating and deserves more attention.

**Public comment:** None

IV. AGENDA SETTING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

*DISCUSSION*

*5 min*

Member Remora wants conversation to include shelter staff. They have challenging jobs and it is hard to maintain staffing levels. Service is adversely impacted when staff are overworked.

**Public comment:** None.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

*DISCUSSION*

*3 min*

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**Public comment:** None.

ADJOURNMENT

This item requires a motion, a second, and to be carried.

***Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM***

Action Item	Assigned To
Remind Members to submit nominations for officers.	Staff
See if a SME could present on BHS at a future meeting.	Member Eya

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